

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 are currently pending. Claims 11 and 12 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species, but will be added back upon indication of allowable subject matter directed to the elected species and genus. Claims 5, 6, and 7 have been amended. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-15 will remain pending.

No new matter has been added. The amendments to claims 5, 6, and 7 merely clarify the term using standard American English, and do not affect claim scope. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested. Any amendment to the claims is made without prejudice to the prosecution of such subject matter in this or other patent applications.

**The Priority Claim**

The Examiner has acknowledged applicants' claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) and has required that Applicants amend the specification to update the priority information.

The specification has been amended accordingly.

**Substitute Declaration**

The Examiner has indicated that the Declaration contains non-initialed and/or non-dated alterations. Therefore, the Examiner is apparently requesting a substitute Declaration be filed.

Applicants respectfully submit that a substitute Declaration was filed in parent application Serial No. 09/240,675, now U.S. Patent No. 6,787,634. However, despite a diligent effort by Applicants' prior attorney, all of the inventors' signatures were not obtained for the substitute Declaration. A copy of the substitute Declaration executed by the remaining inventors, Francois Meyer, Ivan Plavec, and Michael Tovey is enclosed herewith as Exhibit A. Patrick Benoit and Deborah Maguire did not respond to Applicants' prior Attorney's requests to execute a substitute Declaration. Therefore, Applicants' attorney submitted a declaration providing a statement of facts describing her efforts to obtain the signatures of Patrick Benoit and Deborah Maguire. The substitute Declaration was not accepted by the Examiner.

Subsequently, on August 1, 2002, Applicants filed a Petition for Waiver or Suspension of Rules Under 37 C.F.R. §1.183, requesting that the U.S. Patent Office waive or suspend Rules 37 C.F.R. §1.52 and 37 C.F.R. §1.67 and accept inventor declarations as originally filed for the application. A copy of the Petition is enclosed as Exhibit B. On April 24, 2003, the U.S. Patent Office granted the request for waiver under 37 C.F.R. §1.67 and no further Declaration was required. A copy of the Decision on the Petition is enclosed as Exhibit C. Therefore, based on the foregoing, a further substitute Declaration is not required for the instant invention, which is a Continuation application of Serial No. 09/240,675, now U.S. Patent No. 6,787,634, and thus entitled to use the Declaration from that application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d)(1)).

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph**

The Examiner has rejected claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. The Examiner contends that the recitation of “inferior to” in claims 5-8 is unclear because it is not quantitative but rather qualitative in describing antibody concentration ranges.

In order to expedite prosecution of the application, and in no way acquiescing to the Examiner’s rejection, claims 5-7 have been amended to replace the phrase “inferior to” with the phrase “less than.” (Claim 8 depends from claim 5 and therefore includes this amendment by reference). The amendment serves only to clarify the claims using standard American English terminology and does not in any way alter the scope of the claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph**

The Examiner has rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as allegedly containing subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that the antibody recited in ECACC Accession number 92022605 is essential to the claimed invention and must be obtainable by a repeatable method set forth in the specification or otherwise be readily available to the public. The Examiner also states that the instant specification does not disclose a repeatable process to obtain the hybridomas, and it is not

apparent if the hybridomas are readily available to the public. Furthermore, the Examiner states that if the deposits have been made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty, an affidavit or declaration stating that the hybridomas have been deposited under the Budapest Treaty and that the hybridomas/antibodies will be irrevocably and without restriction or condition released to the public upon the issuance of a patent would satisfy the deposit requirement made herein. Further, the record must be clear that the deposit will be maintained in a public depository for a period of 30 years after the date of deposit or five years after the last request for a sample or for the enforceable life of the patent whichever is longer. The Examiner also states that the specification must be amended to disclose the date of deposit and complete name and address of the depository.

Applicants respectfully submit that the specification, at paragraph [0042] includes the date of deposit and the complete name and address of the depository. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims are fully enabled by the instant specification and that a deposit of the hybridoma is not required for enablement. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants submit herewith a copy of a Declaration of Availability (Exhibit D), filed during the prosecution of parent application Serial No. 09/240,675, now U.S. Patent No. 6,787,634, on March 3, 2000.

In the Declaration, a representative of the previous assignee of the application<sup>1</sup>, Medisup International N.V., confirms that cell culture 64G12 was deposited at the ECACC on February 26, 1999 under accession no. 92022605, as set forth in the specification. The Declaration states, in part, that access to the culture will be available during the pendency of the patent application to one determined by the Commissioner to be entitled thereto under 37 C.F.R. §1.14 and 35 U.S.C. §122. Furthermore, Medisup International N.V. states that the deposited culture will be maintained and will be refurnished if the deposited culture should become non-viable. The Declaration further states that all restrictions on the availability to the public of the culture so deposited will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of the patent, and that the culture will be maintained for at least five years after the most recent request for the furnishing of a sample and, in any case, for a period of at least thirty years after the date of the deposit, or during the enforceable life of the patent, whichever is later.

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<sup>1</sup> The application has since been assigned from Medisup International to Medarex, Inc.,

Applicants respectfully submit that the deposit meets the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§1.801-1.809, and request withdrawal of the instant rejection.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,516,515 (hereinafter “Vellucci”). In particular, the Examiner contends that Vellucci teaches a method for neutralizing antiproliferative activity by contacting anti-IFN $\alpha$ 2 receptor monoclonal antibodies to cells expressing IFN receptors. The Examiner further contends that “the claimed type I IFN receptor is IFN $\alpha$ 2, thus the epitope of amino acid residues of 27-427 of IFN $\alpha$ 2 is encompassed in the referenced teaching.”

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons. In order for a reference to anticipate a claim, it must teach each and every aspect of the claimed invention. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Vellucci fails to teach each and every aspect of claims 1-10 and 13-14 of the instant application.

First, Applicants respectfully point out that the instant invention is not directed to IFN receptors, as suggested by the Examiner. The instant claims are directed to a method for neutralizing biological properties of human type I interferon (IFN), comprising contacting a cell that expresses a human type I interferon receptor (IFN-R) with a monoclonal antibody characterized by the following properties: (a) the monoclonal antibody recognizes an epitope on amino acid sequence 27-427 of SEQ ID NOS: 1 or 2 of the human type 1 IFN-R; and (b) the monoclonal antibody has a neutralizing capacity *in vitro* against the antiproliferative or antiviral activity of human type I IFN.

Vellucci is directed to the partial purification of two Type I interferon receptors from lymphoblastoid cells. Vellucci does not teach or suggest monoclonal antibodies that recognize an epitope on amino acid sequence 27-427 of SEQ ID NOS: 1 or 2 of the human type I IFN-R and have a neutralizing capacity *in vitro* against the antiproliferative or antiviral activity of human type I IFN, nor does Vellucci teach or suggest methods for using such antibodies to neutralize biological properties of human Type I IFN by contacting a cell expressing a human Type I IFN-R with the antibody, as claimed in the instant application.

Vellucci generally discusses IFN receptor antibodies, stating that natural (and therefore polyclonal) IFN receptor antibody production is associated with certain diseases, and that receptor proteins may be given to treat these diseases (col. 3, lines 1-3). Vellucci also states that IFN-receptor antibodies may be used for the following: to diagnose how many IFN receptors are present in a cell population; as toxin-antibody conjugates to eliminate virus infected cells with an increased number of IFN receptors; and as a therapeutic since it may elicit the same response as IFN itself (i.e., the IFN-R antibody would mimic IFN, acting therefore as an agonist, not an antagonist by neutralizing activity). (Vellucci, col. 3, lines 16-31). Nowhere does Vellucci teach or even suggest a method for neutralizing the biological properties of human Type I IFN, i.e., antiproliferative or antiviral activity of human Type I IFN, using a monoclonal antibody to a Type I IFN-R having the specific properties set forth in claim 1. Furthermore, Vellucci does not teach or suggest any monoclonal antibodies to Type I IFN-R having the properties set forth in claim 1. Although Vellucci partially purified Type 1 interferon receptors, Vellucci does not teach or suggest selection of amino acids 27-427 of human type 1 IFN-R as containing epitopes recognized by an anti-IFN-R antibody.

Example 4 of Vellucci describes the preparation of antibodies to human interferon-alpha receptor proteins. However, monoclonal antibodies that recognize an epitope on amino acid sequence 27-427 of SEQ ID NOS: 1 or 2 of the human type I IFN-R and have neutralizing capacity *in vitro* against the antiproliferative or antiviral activity of human type I IFN, much less using such monoclonal antibodies to neutralize biological properties of type I IFN, are not described.

Furthermore, although Vellucci describes the production of hybridomas (column 9, lines 28-30), antibodies specific for an epitope on amino acid sequence 27-427 of human type I IFN-R were not screened for. No hybridoma screening was carried out. In fact, Vellucci states that “[t]he resulting hybridomas *may* be expected to express antibodies against the interferon alpha proteins.” Therefore, Vellucci does not actually describe monoclonal antibodies as required by the claims of the instant invention, and therefore such monoclonal antibodies were not in possession by the public based on Vellucci’s disclosure. Therefore Vellucci does not anticipate the claimed invention. As set forth above, even if production of the antibodies used in

the claimed invention was possible, Vellucci provides no teaching or suggestion of a method for neutralizing biological properties of human type I IFN using these antibodies.

In the Office Action, with respect to claim 8, the Examiner states that “[f]urther evidenced in [0077], p. 15 of the instant specification, the antibody concentration ranges of 0.1 to 1.5 ug/ml exhibits  $K_d$  of  $\sim 10$ nM, the claimed limitation of ‘antibody concentration in the range of about 0.5-2  $\mu$ g/ml’ is met in col. 7, lines 42-46 (i.e.  $8 \times 10^{-11}$  and  $1 \times 10^{-9}$  M).” Applicants respectfully point out to the Examiner that column 7, lines 42-46 of Vellucci does not refer to antibody concentration as in claim 8, but rather to binding of interferons to interferon receptors.

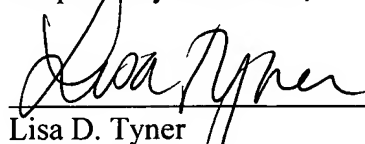
Based on the foregoing, Vellucci does not anticipate the claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

### **Conclusion**

To expedite this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes a telephone call would be helpful in advancing prosecution.

Applicants believes that no fee is due in connection with the filing of this Response. If any additional fee is due, or overpayment made, with regard to this Response, the Transmittal and Fee Transmittal (submitted in duplicate herewith) authorizes the Director to charge any such fee, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4377.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa D. Tyner  
Reg. No. 51,619  
Attorney for Applicants

Dated: June 29, 2006

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Atty. Dkt. No 017283-0123

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Applicants: Patrick BENOIT ET AL.

Title: AN ISOLATED PEPTIDE OR  
POLYPEPTIDE OF THE  
EXTRACELLULAR PORTION OF  
THE HUMAN INTERFERON  
RECEPTOR (IFN-R)

Appl. No.: 09/240,675

Filing Date: 02/02/1999

Examiner: S. Devi

Art Unit: 1645

<b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</b> I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below.  _____ (Printed Name)  _____ (Signature)  _____ (Date of Deposit)
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**PETITION FOR WAIVER OR SUSPENSION OF RULES UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.183**

Box DAC  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**(1) Petition Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.183**

Concurrent with this submission, Applicants are filing a response with the ex parte Examiner, Ms. Devi. In that response, Applicants point out why no petition is required, in view of the facts detailed below. If the office takes a different position, however, Applicants have submitted this petition in the alternative.

Applicant hereby petitions that the Office for waive or suspend rules 37 C.F.R. § 1.52 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.67, and to accept inventor declarations as originally filed for the present application. Applicants believe the rules do not adequately govern the extraordinary facts of this case and further request that the office suspend or waive any other applicable rules as justice requires.

**(2) Pertinent Facts**

All named inventors of the present application executed a declaration which as filed with the Office concurrently with the patent application on February 2, 1999. The declarations were accepted at that time and the Office granted the patent application a filing date of February 2, 1999. Well into prosecution of the present case,

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the examiner objected to the original declarations under 37 C.F.R. § 1.52 because at least some of the inventors altered their country of citizenship without initialing the changes, despite signing the declaration thereunder. The examiner requested that Applicants file supplemental declarations under 37 C.F.R. § 1.67. Applicants note that 37 C.F.R. § 1.67 is discretionary and the "Office may require" that the applicants submit a supplemental declaration.

In accordance with MPEP § 409.03(d), Julia Andral-Ziurys, Applicants' patent counsel, made a diligent effort to contact all of the inventors. Supplemental declarations were forwarded, up to three times over five months, to the last known address of each named inventor. To date, Applicants have not received signed supplemental declarations from two of the inventors, Patrick Benoit and Deborah Maquire. Applicants filed the Declaration of Ms. Andral-Ziurys with an office action response dated December 7, 2001. The Andral-Ziurys' declaration provides a statement of facts describing her efforts to contact the absent inventors and includes documents supporting her efforts as Annexes 1-21.

The examiner did not consider Andral-Ziurys' declaration because it was not in a separate paper directed to the Office of Petitions. In an office action dated February 1, 2002, the examiner requested Applicants to file a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.47 as some of the inventors were unavailable to file a supplemental declaration.

Applicants believe the rules do not adequately control the facts of this case. First, Applicants believe that 37 C.F.R. § 1.52 is inapplicable to the present case. Applicants contend that 37 C.F.R. § 1.52 is directed to application papers other than the oath or declaration. The language of the rule specifically is directed to application papers altered after the signing of the oath or declaration. Thus, 37 C.F.R. § 1.52 appears improper. Should the Office consider 37 C.F.R. § 1.52 to be applicable to the present case, Applicants request that the Office waive or suspend this rule as justice requires.

Second, Applicants believe that 37 C.F.R. § 1.47 does not adequately control this case. Although Applicants were not able to obtain the supplemental declarations from all inventors, Applicants filed original declarations from all inventors which were accepted by the Office. As a result, the Office granted the application a filing date of February 2, 1999. Thus, 37 C.F.R. § 1.47 does not apply because all



inventors did sign a declaration and the Office granted the application a filing date. Should the Office consider 37 C.F.R. § 1.47 to be applicable to the present case, Applicants request that the Office waive or suspend this rule as justice requires.

Third, Applicants believe that 37 C.F.R. § 1.67 is a discretionary rule that may be waived by the Office. The language of 37 C.F.R. § 1.67 includes the discretionary word "may" and does not include the mandatory language of "shall" or "will." As a result, Applicants request the Office waive or suspend 37 C.F.R. § 1.67 as justice requires.

Lastly, Applicants request the Office to waive or suspend any other applicable rules to permit the original declarations executed by all inventors to be entered in this case.

**(3) Petition fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h)**

A check in the amount of \$130.00 is enclosed for the amount stated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h) to cover the fee for this petition.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this petition, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

1 August 2002

By

S. A. Bent

FOLEY & LARDNER

Customer Number: 22428



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Paper 26

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**APR 24 2003**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of  
Benoit, et al.  
Application No. 09/240,675  
Filed: 2 February, 1999  
Attorney Docket No. 017283-0123

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition 1 August, 2002, under 37 C.F.R. §1.183<sup>1</sup> requesting waiver/suspension of the provisions 37 C.F.R. §1.52 (which Petitioner nonetheless contends does not apply<sup>2</sup>) and §1.67<sup>3</sup> (which Petitioner contends does).

<sup>1</sup> The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.183 provide:

**§1.183. Suspension of the rules.**

In an extraordinary situation, when justice requires, any requirement of the regulations in this part which is not a requirement of the statutes may be suspended or waived by the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee, *sun sponte*, or on petition of the interested party, subject to such other requirements as may be imposed. Any petition under this section must be accompanied by the petition fee set forth in §1.17(h).  
[47 Fed. Reg. 41278, Sept. 17, 1982, effective Oct. 1, 1982]

<sup>2</sup> Petitioner asserts that the regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.52 are directed to papers other than the oath or declaration. The regulations at §1(c)(1) provide:

\*\*\*  
(c)(1) Any interlineation, erasure, cancellation or other alteration of the application papers filed must be made before the signing of any accompanying oath or declaration pursuant to §1.63 referring to those application papers and should be dated and initialed or signed by the applicant on the same sheet of paper. Application papers containing alterations made after the signing of an oath or declaration referring to those application papers must be supported by a supplemental oath or declaration under §1.67. In either situation, a substitute specification (§1.125) is required if the application papers do not comply with paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section. (Emphasis supplied).  
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<sup>3</sup> The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.67 provide:

**§1.67 Supplemental oath or declaration.**

(a) The Office may require, or inventors and applicants may submit, a supplemental oath or declaration meeting the requirements of §1.63 or §1.162 to correct any deficiencies or inaccuracies present in the earlier filed oath or declaration.

(1) Deficiencies or inaccuracies relating to all the inventors or applicants (§§1.42, 1.43, or §1.47) may be corrected with a supplemental oath or declaration signed by all the inventors or applicants.

(2) Deficiencies or inaccuracies relating to fewer than all of the inventor(s) or applicant(s) (§§1.42, 1.43 or §1.47) may be corrected with a supplemental oath or declaration identifying the entire inventive entity but signed only by the inventor(s) or applicant(s) to whom the error or deficiency relates.

(3) Deficiencies or inaccuracies due to the failure to meet the requirements of §1.63((c)) (e.g., to correct the omission of a mailing address of an inventor) in an oath or declaration may be corrected with an application data sheet in accordance with §1.76.

(4) Submission of a supplemental oath or declaration or an application data sheet (§1.76), as opposed to who must sign the supplemental oath or declaration or an application data sheet is governed by §1.33((a)(2)) and paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) A supplemental oath or declaration meeting the requirements of §1.63 must be filed when a claim is presented for matter originally shown or

The Office regrets the delay in addressing this matter.

For the reasons set forth below, the petition is **GRANTED**.

### BACKGROUND

The record indicates that:

- in her Office action of 31 January, 2001, the Examiner objected to the oath or declaration filed with the application, and required the Petitioner to submit a supplemental oath or declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.67(a) due to defects in the original oath or declaration, to wit: [n]on-initialed and/or non-dated alterations have been made to the oath or declaration[.]" and the Examiner further cited 37 C.F.R. §1.52;
- Petitioner filed a reply (with extension of time) filed on 23 July, 2001;
- in her Office action of 7 August, 2001, the Examiner maintained the objection;
- Petitioner filed evidence of an unsuccessful attempt to contact the inventors in the reply (with request for continued examination and request for extension of time) on 7 December, 2001;
- in her Office action of 1 February, 2002, the Examiner again maintained the objection;
- Petitioner filed the instant petition on 1 August, 2002.

### LAW AND ANALYSIS

Applications filed under 35 U.S.C. §111(a) require of applicants an oath, and impose upon applicants and other individuals substantively involved with the preparation and/or prosecution of the application have a duty of disclosure Office as to information which material to patentability.<sup>4</sup>

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described but not substantially embraced in the statement of invention or claims originally presented or when an oath or declaration submitted in accordance with §1.53(f) after the filing of the specification and any required drawings specifically and improperly refers to an amendment which includes new matter. No new matter may be introduced into a nonprovisional application after its filing date even if a supplemental oath or declaration is filed. In proper situations, the oath or declaration here required may be made on information and belief by an applicant other than the inventor.

(c)[Reserved]

[48 FR 2711, Jan. 20, 1983, effective Feb. 27, 1983; para. (c) added, 57 FR 2021, Jan. 17, 1992, effective Mar. 16, 1992; para. (b) revised, 60 FR 20195, Apr. 25, 1995, effective June 8, 1995; para. (b) revised, 62 FR 53131, Oct. 10, 1997, effective Dec. 1, 1997; para. (a) revised and para. (c) removed and reserved, 65 FR 54604, Sept. 8, 2000, effective Nov. 7, 2000]

<sup>4</sup> See: 35 U.S.C. §111(a), §115 and §371(a); see also: 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.67 provide procedures for requiring and submitting a supplemental oath or declaration in advancement of the statutory requirements.

Petitioner alleges facts, and provides documentation in support thereof, which indicate that despite diligent effort Petitioner is unable to satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.67.

Thus--Petitioner's assertion to the contrary notwithstanding--a waiver of 37 C.F.R. §1.67 is required.

Petitioner having carried the burden of proof, the request for a waiver under 37 C.F.R. §1.183 of the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.67 hereby is granted.

This application is being forwarded to Technology Center 1600 for further processing.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (703) 305-9199.



John J. Gillon, Jr.  
Senior Attorney  
Office of Petitions



PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 017288/0123

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of  
BENOIT et al.

Group Art Unit: 1841

Serial No.: 09/240,675

Examiner: DEVI, S.

Filed: February 2, 1999

For: MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES AGAINST ALPHA IFN

**DECLARATION OF AVAILABILITY**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

The undersigned, a representative of MEDISUP INTERNATIONAL N.V., having a place of business at Kaya W.F.G. Mensing 14, 431 Netherlands Antilles, declares and states that:

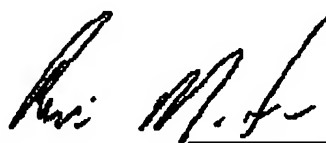
1. I have reviewed the Assignment in the above-identified application, a copy of which is attached hereto, and I believe in good faith that MEDISUP INTERNATIONAL N.V. is the Assignee of the entire right, title and interest in and to the invention described and claimed in application Serial No. 09/240,675, filed September 3, 1999, for MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES AGAINST THE INTERFERON RECEPTOR, WITH NEUTRALIZING ACTIVITY AGAINST TYPE I INTERFERON.
2. Cell culture 84G12 was deposited at the ECACC, PHLS CAMB, PORTON DOWN on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 1992, under accession No. 92022805.
3. Access to the culture will be available during pendency of the patent application to one determined by the Commissioner to be entitled thereto under 37 C.F.R. 1.14 and 35 U.S.C. 122.

4. All restrictions on the availability to the public of the culture so deposited will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of the patent.
5. MEDISUP INTERNATIONAL N.V. will maintain the deposited culture, and will refurnish such culture should it become non-viable while on deposit.
6. The deposited culture will be maintained at said depository for a period of at least five years after the most recent request for the furnishing of a sample of the deposited cultures was received by the depository, and, in any case, for a period of at least thirty (30) years after the date of the deposit, or during the enforceable life of the patent, whichever is later.

I further state that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 or Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issuing thereon.

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2000

Date



Signature

Kevin MARTIN.

Typewritten Name

Managing Director.

Official Title